

2009 Montanan 4-H Congress Planning

January 18-19 in Helena

The purpose of congress Planning weekend is to bring together those individuals who have a vested interest in the success of Montana 4-H Congress in order to develop events and activities that will provide all participants with a fun and educational state congress experience. What will Congress look like? What will the speaker talk about? What will the theme be? What will the workshops be? This opportunity is open to youth and adult members who have attended Montana 4-H Congress at least one year. To apply please request an application from your county extension office or directly from Brett Schomer, bschomer@montana.edu.



4-H International Programs

If you're in 4-H and have always wanted to travel abroad, you can apply to go to Australia, Costa Rica, Finland or Japan in the summer of 2009. You'll travel with other 4-Hers from around the country, accompanied by at least one chaperone, and stay with a host family during the exchange. In addition, you'll get to see some of the sights in the major cities like Sydney, Helsinki and Tokyo. In Costa Rica, you'll visit a rain forest. When you return to Montana, you'll get to continue the exchange by making small presentations to your schools, 4-H clubs or other community organizations that want to hear about your cool adventure.

For volunteers or 4-H staffers over the age of 25, you can apply to chaperone one of the trips listed above. The applications are reviewed on the national level and preference is given to those who have significant experience chaperoning youth and to those with previous International travel experience (not required).

IFYEs – former 4-H members can travel for up to six months on the IFYE program. Choose the country(s) of your choice and the 4-H Center will work with you and the destination country to put together an exciting exchange. IFYEs can expect to help their host families work on their farms and ranches.

The application deadline for all of the programs listed above is **January 15, 2009**. Applications are available online at www.montana4h.org or by contacting Stephanie Davison at 994-3502 or sdavison@montana.edu

Montana 4-H Citizenship Seminar

Teens 14 years old and older are invited to attend a state-wide citizenship event in Helena on March 1-3, 2009. The Montana 4-H Citizenship Seminar will showcase state government in action. Each delegate is expected to sponsor a potential "bill" suitable for the "4-H legislature" to act upon. Registration forms are due on February 1st. Contact the 4-H office for complete details and ask about scholarship applications. Applications are due January 12.

IFYE –

International Four-H Youth Exchange

If you would like a Montana IFYE delegate to come visit your club, please notify the office as soon as possible, we will be inviting one of the most recent travelers to visit Gallatin County. Please call Faith if you would like to set up a presentation for your group.

Girls for a Change

Mark your calendars for the 2009 day-long conference in Bozeman, Saturday, February 28. This year's theme is The Courage to Climb and Key-note Speaker, Dr. Luanne Freer, will inspire girls as she talks about the volunteer medical clinic she set up at the base of Mt. Everest. Workshops will focus on giving back to your world (service), protecting your world (environment), understanding your world (culture), caring for yourself in your world (self care) and expression in your world (art, crafts). Contact the Extension Office for more details.

Citizenship Washington Focus - June 7-13, 2009

Teens 15 years old are invited to participate in an event that past delegates have found to be the highlight of their 4-H experience. Citizenship Washington Focus is a 4-H leadership program in Washington D.C. where delegates get a chance to look behind the scenes in our nation's capitol, meet senators and representatives, listen to motivational speakers, attend workshops to learn the governmental process, and increase individual commitment to citizen involvement. Some financial assistance is available. Deadline to apply is February 1st. Contact the 4-H office for complete details and ask about scholarship applications. Applications are due January 12.